

REMARKS

Applicants filed an Amendment on August 13, 2004 in response to the Office Action mailed May 14, 2004. A Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment was mailed December 14, 2004 indicating that the amendment document was non-compliant due to several checked items. The checked items included: 1. Amendments to the specification: A. Amended paragraph(s) did not include markings; and C. Other, indicating the abstract should be separate from the specification. The checked items also included: 2. Abstract: A. Not presented on a separate sheet. 37 CFR 1.72.; and B. Other, indicating the abstract did not have markings to show changes.

Applicants have filed the present response submitting corrected sections regarding amendments to the specification and a new abstract that correct the corresponding sections on pages 2 and 3 of the Amendment filed August 13, 2004. The present response includes amendments directed to the insertion of headings and related paragraphs as well as the abstract. The present response, compared to the Amendment filed August 13, 2004, contains headings in upper case, without underlining or bold type, that are similar to the example headings on page 3 of the Office Action mailed May 14, 2004. The cross-reference to related applications information has also been revised to reflect the proper filing date of the EP application.

Applicants respectfully suggest that since the present abstract is being deleted and a new abstract is being added, the new abstract does not need markings to show changes. Applicants have submitted a new abstract since the abstract is substantially rewritten in view of the most recent version of the abstract.

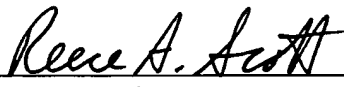
Applicants respectfully suggest that the sections of the Amendment filed August 13, 2004 that were in compliance including the amendments to the claims and remarks should be entered.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request entry and consideration of the above supplemental amendments and remarks to advance the above-identified application to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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